

SECTION 15B - ICE MACHINES CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

I. PURPOSE. To provide guidelines for the cleaning and maintenance of ice machines at DHCN. This policy provides guidance for cleaning and disinfecting ice machines. Other procedures may be used in specific areas if they are written into the unit-specific infection control policy and approved by the HICO.

II. APPLICABILITY. All DHCN personnel are responsible for the cleanliness and maintenance of the ice dispensers located in their department.

III. GENERAL. Lines and holding bins can become contaminated, resulting in the growth of bacteria which may cause colonization or infection of susceptible patients. The use of intermediate tubs or basins to carry ice increases the probability of contamination. Scoops will never be left inside with the ice, but rather will be kept in a clean container on the top or side of the ice machine.

A. Precautions for ice handlers:

1. Wash hands immediately prior to touching ice.
2. Do not handle ice if hands have open sores or rashes.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. Chute-type ice machines:

1. Kira will clean and sanitize internal components on a schedule according to manufacture's recommendations - every 6 months and annually. Documentation will be made on a card posted on the side of the machine.

2. Housekeeping personnel will clean all external surfaces daily using established damp wiping procedures with hospital-approved cleaning solution or a 1:10 solution of sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) and water. Ensure that the funnel is cleaned with the bleach solutions as well, in order to disinfect the area.

3. Rinse with clear water.

B. Bin ice machines:

1. Housekeeping personnel will clean all external surfaces daily using established damp wiping procedures with 3M HBV#25 or a 1:10 solution of sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) and water.

2. Bin ice machines will be cleaned on a regular basis every three months. Schedules will be posted and initialed by the person responsible for cleaning. This schedule will be specified in the Unit's Infection Control SOP.

- a. Disconnect machine from electricity, empty the bin, and discard the ice.

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b. Using clean disposable cloths, first clean the scoop and then wipe all internal surfaces with a freshly prepared solution of one quarter cup bleach to one gallon of tap water, giving special attention to tracks, recesses, and crevices.

c. Allow to dry.

d. Reconnect ice machine to the electrical outlet.

C. Hospital Engineering will perform routine maintenance and acidification cleaning on a scheduled basis - every six months and annually. The Unit NCOIC should maintain a log/record and document routine service and maintenance. This log should be retrievable for inspection purposes from either office.